

A SUGGESTED OUTLINE FOR BOOK ON THE PENTATEUCHAL CRITICISM

CHAPTER I. The Importance of the Question Today.

Discussion of the many references to it that one finds in current religious literature and the wide-spread assumption that it is an established fact.

CHAPTER II. A Survival from the Pre-Scientific Period.

Point out that comparatively little is done nowadays in trying to prove the theory. It is often presented on the ground of authority, with the assertion that many scholars have come to this conclusion after careful work over a long period of years. Point out the real situation: that actually during the 19th century critical scholars frequently changed from one to another of many viewpoints, and that eventually this one won out, not because it could be proven from the viewpoint of source material or literary analysis to be better than the others, but because of its union with a theory of development that has to a large extent been quietly laid aside in more recent years.

Point out also that the long process of discussion and adoption of various theories during the 19th century was simply part of a wide-spread literary approach that has now largely been abandoned. This approach rested upon an assumption of human ability to reconstruct a document in a way that is now